

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
/130 W

-----110101 301207Z/46

R 300840Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8998

CONFIDENTIAL KUALA LUMPUR 6085

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES - UNCTAD COMMON FUND

MEETING

REF: STATE 191312

1. IN REPLY TO SUBPARA A OF PARA 3 OF REFTEL VARIOUS MINISTRIES IN THE GOM ARE INVOLVED IN PROVIDING INPUT INTO GOM DECISION MAKING ON THE COMMON FUND PROPOSAL. THE MINISTRIES ARE, IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE:MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AND MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY. THE THREE MINISTRIES WILL OPERATE AS A COMMITTEE AND MAKE A FORMAL PRESENTATION TO THE GOM CABINET CONCERNING WHAT POSITION THE GOM SHOULD TAKE IN GENEVA. THE CABINET WILL THEN FORMALIZE THE GOM'S POSITION. FYI: THREE TO FOUR (MINISTER OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MUSA HITAM, MINISTER OF FINANCE TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY DATUK HAMZAH SAMAH AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) INFLUENTIAL GOM MINISTERS COULD BE SINGLED OUT THAT WILL DOMINATE ANY CABINET DISCUSSION ON THE COMMON FUND.

2. IN REPOSE TO SUBPARA B OF PARA 3 OF REFTEL THE GOM WILL DEFINITELY
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SEND HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM KUALA LUMPUR TO GENEVA FOR THE TALKS. COMMODITIES IN GENERAL AND COMMODITY AGREEMENTS IN PARTICULAR ARE BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES TO THE GOM AND IT WILL BE QUITE ACTIVE IN THE GENEVA TALKS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SUBPARA C OF PARA 3 OF REFTEL WE DO FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR US EXPERTS TO

HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOM PRIOR TO THE TALKS IN GENEVA. AS WE HAVE RECENTLY POINTED OUT, SEE KUALA LUMPUR 5847, WE FEEL THAT MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC LDC'S SUCH AS MALAYSIA CAN BE UTILIZED EFFECTIVELY IN THIS TYPE OF NEGOTIATION. LATEST ITME FRAME WHEN US EXPERTS COULD EXERT INFLUENCE ON ANY POSITION THE GOM WILL TAKE WOULD BE THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER. AFTER THAT TIME THE GOM WILL BE INVOLVED IN FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD.

4. COMMENT: MALAYSIA AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF RUBBER, TIN AND OIL PALM AND THE LARGEST EXPORTER OF TROPICAL HARDWOODS HAS A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN THE COMMON FUND. THIS FACT, COUPLED WITH THE GOM'S TRADITIONALLY PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES WOULD SEEM TO DICTATE THAT THE USG CONSULT WITH THE GOM ON ANY COMMODITY RELATED SUBJECT AND ENLIST THE GOM'S SUPPORT PRIOR TO MEETINGS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

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Message Attributes

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